

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-12, 16-17, 21-22, and 26-27 are pending in the application. No claims have been amended, added, or cancelled.

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-12, 16-17, 21-22, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Levi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,137,656 (hereinafter "Levi").

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-12, 16-17, 21-22, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Levi. Levi discloses an air bearing slider for use in a disk drive with a plurality of pads that form discrete air bearing surfaces having a uniform height.

Applicant respectfully submits that Levi fails to disclose second structure that begins more than one-third of the length of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body, as claimed in claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26. As shown by Figure 2, the cavity 46, cited as the second structure by the Examiner, begins 13.3% of the length of the slider from the leading edge, substantially less than one-third (approximately 33.3%) of the length of the slider body from the leading edge. Further, the specification makes no reference to the length of the cavity in relation to the slider body. Therefore, Levi does not anticipate claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore that claims 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, and 27 are allowable as depending from allowable base claims.

Based on the amendments and arguments above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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